Neh. 8^{8} And they read in the book in the law of God, distinctly, and they gave the sense, so that they understood the reading.

Reading with exhaustive understanding.

Intro – We all read more or less, great quantities of printed matter – much of which is not worth reading & much of that which is worth while that we read, flitting thru our minds like a train speeding by in the dark.

Multitudes read from sheer mental laziness

Bacon said "Read not to contradict ~~believe~~ nor to believe, but to weigh & consider."

What do we mean by true reading?

True reading is a deliberate process by which written thot is transferred to the mind and there stored & assimilated.

I. How to determine whether a given book should be read or not.

1. Read the title — understandingly.

   i.e. History of the U. S.

   What is history? Written? Unwritten.

   Kinds of history — elementary, economic, social, civic, or just a general history.

   What is the fundamental idea in U. S. — Its origin?

2. Read the author's name.

   a — Ascertain his place in letters.
   b — What value can be placed upon his work.
   c — When did he live & where?
   d — If possible read a brief sketch of his life.

3. Date, Edition, Publishing House.

4. Read Table of Contents.

   This should give you some idea of the ground covered in the book.

5. Read Preface carefully.

   What has the author here said?
   Why has he said it?
   Does it really preface the book?

6. Read the Introduction with great care
Look out for the author's purpose in writing the book and for what he aims to accomplish.

7. Read attentively the 1st 25 pages.
Note if you meet with anything new, anything interesting, anything of value to you.
If these 25 pages do not get hold of a good mind — either the author has done phenomenally fine work, or he is'nt worth reading.

II. How to read a book understandingly:
1. Read the first paragraph.
Analytically sentence by sentence
"A red automobile passed swiftly"
2. Make a mental image of each thot.
abstract, objective, action.
3. Reconstruct the paragraph in your own language.

"The first class of readers may be compared to an hour-glass, their reading being as the sand; it runs in and runs out and leaves not a vestige behind. A second class resembles a sponge, which imbibes everything and returns it in nearly the same state, only a little dirtier. A third class is like a jelly-bag which allows all that is pure to pass away, and retain only the refuse and dregs. The fourth class may be compared to the slave of Golconda, who, casting aside all that is worthless, preserves only the pure gems."

Coleridge.

Bacon "Read not to contradict nor to believe, but to weigh + consider."